

# the almagest

...your Pilot News source

Thursday  
January 31st, 2008  
Volume 52, Issue 1

## Pilots experience heartache but follow through with redemption

Kim Rusley  
Contributing Writer

The LSUS Pilots men's basketball team went head-to-head with the Gold Rush of Xavier University on Jan. 23. Even though it resulted in the Pilots' first loss of the season, the game turned out to be a nail-biter the whole way through. With Josh Porter, guard, and Jamon Morris, post, in foul trouble much of the first half, the Pilots had to show how resilient they were with two of their strongest players sitting on the bench.

Both Porter and Morris picked up two fouls in the

cont. page 4



Minden native Cody Walker, guard, at last Saturday's home game.

Kim Rusley/Contributing Writer

## LSUS students part of national political scene

Justin Tison  
Staff Writer

Two LSUS students ran Jan. 22 to be selected as one of the 15 delegates from our area to be sent to the Louisiana Republican Convention.

John Kay, president of the LSUS College Republicans, and Deanna Wallace, secretary of the College Republicans, ran against a slate of local Republican candidates to grab a seat at the convention. The 15 delegates will head to Baton Rouge on Feb. 16 for the chance to elect Louisiana's delegates to the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Sept. 1-4.

Wallace, freshman, speech communication, acquired enough votes to be sent to Baton Rouge as a delegate. Kay came within three votes of being selected to attend the state's convention but did not win.

Winning a seat at the convention will allow Wallace to decide a number of important things for Louisiana Republicans and the upcoming National Presidential elections. She will have a chance to be selected to go to the Republican National Convention and vote on who receives the Republican Presidential nomination.

"When I go to Baton Rouge for the state convention..."

cont. page 4

## From cotton fields to excellence

LSUS holds strong  
forty years later, but  
what's in store?

Carly Waters  
Contributing Writer

It has been four decades in the making, but the 40th anniversary of LSUS has finally arrived. It has been a long road with many obstacles, but the staff and administration have worked over the years to make LSUS an excellent school. Now is the time to take a look back and celebrate all of the many accomplishments that LSUS has made since its opening in 1967.

For a number of years, Shreveport was the largest metropolitan area in the country without a public four-year university to provide higher education to its citizens. The need was recognized, and in 1967, LSUS was developed. Initially designed as a two-year commuter college, the staff saw the immediate need to petition for a four-year university;

the rest is history.

According to "From the Cotton Field to the Plaza... Forty Years of Excellence," a book compiled by Dr. Laura McLemore and Noel Memorial Library Archives and Specific Collections archivist Albert Cooksey, Cooksey said, "We originally were the 'college in the cotton patch.' That is what they called it, because this

had been a cotton field."

As a university, LSUS has come a long way from a time when there was no traffic signal in front of the school to today, where parking lots are filled and students are racing to their classes. Today, not only does LSUS offer 38 bachelor degree programs, but also 10 masters' level programs.

cont. page 4

**"The only way that Louisiana is going to get off the bottom is through education; we need more programs."**

Dr. Gloria Raines  
vice chancellor for student affairs



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**Letters Policy**

Letters to the editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. Letters should be e-mailed or submitted to the Almagest office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Please type the letter and include your classification and major. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

**Retractions**

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a retraction is a public statement, either in print, or by verbal statement that is made to correct a previously made statement that was incorrect, invalid, or in error. The intent of a public retraction is to correct any incorrect information.

*The Almagest* holds all rights, if deemed necessary to retract such statements made, and shall, at will.

Retraction notices should be made by e-mail or phone.

**Editorial****Perfect isn't perfect**

Mike Schwalke  
Consultant

Usually, we would reserve this space to welcome all the students back for the new semester and do some general introductions and banal niceties. Welcome back.

This is a momentous issue for me: my 50th issue on the Almagest staff (which reveals how elderly and insane I have become in my lengthy tenure at LSUS). It is good to be back after a too-long hiatus and I am excited to be surrounded by a staff of bright, young people, all of whom are eager and excited to make student newspapers. I will not reveal any of the planned changes for the semester; rather it will be up to you, the loyal reader, to chart the newspaper's progress.

With the formalities out of the way, I have the room to discuss a subject near and dear to all of our hearts: American exceptionalism. I will begin with an anecdote.

I clearly remember the last time I passed by the park where my elementary school

team, the Falling Creek Tigers, won the 1984 tee ball championship. I was riding with my mom in a moving van, heading from Virginia up to Rhode Island. That year, the upstart New England Patriots (Irving Frier, anyone?) snuck into the Super Bowl to face the then-formidable Chicago Bears. The game was a route. The Patriots were outclassed in every facet of the game.

What a difference 20 years makes.

Now, the Pats are the most formidable team in the league and a dynasty unparalleled since the Cowboys' ascension in the early 1990s. Ever since the 2001 season, the Pats have been the team to beat in the AFC, and though they have not won the whole enchilada every year since, they have been to the show often enough to earn the distinction as Super Bowl favorites. Moreover, after an unprecedented perfect regular season, the New England squad is poised to

be the second team in history to go undefeated. They are one win away.

That is old news. If they win the Super Bowl this weekend, sports writers nationwide will surely dub them "the greatest football team ever." Batten down the hatches and prepare for hyperbole.

At any rate, there is a 50-50 chance that we will see history made on Sunday night. People are excited. I am also excited, but I am rooting for the Giants.

Certainly, records are made to be broken and it has been fun watching the Patriots succeed. But we, patriotic Americans are the upstarts, the ones who want to see a team triumph over adversity. This year it is the Giants and not the Patriots who are facing an obstacle. And do not forget that both teams are stocked with athletes at the top of their games—the Patriots are just as excellent as the Giants and vice versa.

I hate to be such a cynic, but Americans are supposed to root for the underdogs, not the unstoppable behemoths. I for one am bored watching the golden Patriots steamrolling every opponent they come up against. I am sick of Tom Brady's smarmy, pretty boy looks. I am sick of hearing Bill Belichick referred to as a genius, as if winning Super Bowls was an art and science equal to astrophysics. And more than anything, I am finished with the notion that rooting for the Patriots somehow equals a measure of patriotism with Old Glory perverted into a T-shirt logo.

So on Sunday night, after you suffer through the chuckleheaded inanities of the pregame show, think about the messianic words wasted to characterize the Patriots. Think about the glory that they will bask in as the most perfectest team ever. They are the giants atop the beanstalk.

**Your comments count!**  
**E-mail the Almagest at [almagest@lsus.edu](mailto:almagest@lsus.edu) with questions, comments, and your feedback.**

**Your suggestions matter!**

the  
**Almagest**

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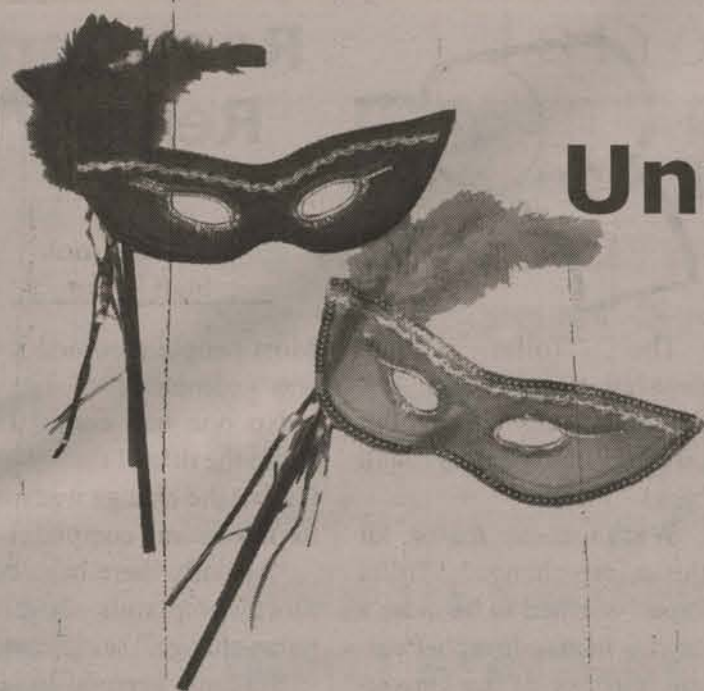
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## LSUS Unmasked

*With Mardi Gras right around the corner, LSUS prepares for a week of fabulous frivolities just in time for Homecoming 2008*

**Whitney Tarkowski**  
Contributing Writer

LSUS Unmasked homecoming 2008 is filled with events that give students and faculty a chance to get involved, have a great time and even make some money. Homecoming will begin Wednesday and conclude with the Overtime Party on Saturday, Feb. 9.

For all students, the festivities start off with a treasure hunt where a \$150 gift card is up for grabs. Clues will be given on the University Center balcony and online in order to lead people to the treasure. Put all three clues together the quickest and win the gift card.

"Phantom of the Opera" will play Wednesday at 7 p.m. During common hour, the daily activities will begin with the window painting contest on the outside of the UC. Create your own masks, and they can be worn at the Masquerade Ball on Friday night. The Masquerade Ball is open to all LSUS students, faculty, staff and alumni.

To keep the day going

there will be a Dodgeball tournament open to everyone. To finish the day, "speed dating" will begin at 7 p.m.

"It is more like speed networking, than actual dating. This is a way for people to meet and get to know other people," said Kim Thornton, assistant director for student leadership and involvement.

Saturday's festivities begin early with a 5K Fun Run/Walk at 8:30 a.m. The day will continue with both women's and men's basketball games. The women take to the court at 2 p.m. while the men will tip-off at 4 p.m. The Homecoming festivities will conclude with the Overtime Party in the UC immediately following the basketball games. There will be food, drinks, music and friends.

There is also \$250 at stake for all LSUS student organizations. Each activity is worth points for the organizations, and at the end of homecoming, the top

three will win prize money. First prize is \$250; second place collects \$150 and third will take home \$150. These presentations will be delivered by Pete the Pilot at the Pilots basketball game.

Not only is homecoming an opportunity for the students to get involved, faculty will have their own competition going on. They are asked to decorate their doors, and the most creative will win the traveling trophy for the winner's department.

Homecoming is not just a chance to participate in fun and games, but also an ample opportunity for students to give back to the community.

On Thursday, Feb. 7, LifeShare Blood Center will host a blood drive at LSUS. This will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the UC. Student organizations can earn points by donating. The Student Activities Board will be collecting canned foods for the Louisiana Food Bank throughout the week.



*Christine Bradley/Photographer*

**Congratulations to the LSUS  
Practical Nursing graduating class  
of 2008!**

Leane M. Barnette  
Elizabeth H. Elledge  
Jamie Suzanne Laird  
Kristi L. McCrea  
Jana M. Soto  
Andrea E. Tatum  
Felicia S. Whitaker

## Mardi Gras 411

**Heather Smelley**  
Contributing Writer

With the Mardi Gras celebration up and running, many people begin to wonder about the true meaning of the celebration.

It is generally agreed upon that Mardi Gras came to America in 1699 with the french explorer Sieur d'Iberville. The festival had been celebrated as a major holiday in Paris since the Middle Ages. In French, *Mardi Gras* literally means "Fat Tuesday" and it always falls on the day before Ash Wednesday. Although Mardi Gras is actually only one day, the actual season, called Carnival, lasts for weeks prior to the actual Mardi Gras holiday.

There is a lot of meaning that goes along with the celebrations during this time. The traditional colors of Mardi Gras are purple, green and gold: purple symbolizing justice, green symboliz-

ing of faith, and gold symbolizing power.

Along with the traditional colors of Mardi Gras there is another thing most people tend to think of when this season comes along, King Cake. These cakes are prepared using a rich Danish dough, baked and covered with a sugar topping in purple, green and gold.

Originally, objects such as coins, beans, pecans and small peas were hidden inside of every King Cake, and wealthy Louisiana plantation owners in the late 1800s would sometimes even hide precious stones and jewels in their King Cakes. It wasn't until the mid 1900s that the small plastic baby became a symbol of Mardi Gras, and people started hiding them inside the cakes.

Get a taste of the Mardi Gras celebration before it's too late. The official end to the Carnival season this year is Feb. 5.

### ATTENTION STUDENTS!

**Don't forget to attend the Homecoming  
Masquerade Ball  
Friday, Feb. 8  
8 p.m. - UC Ballroom**



**COTTON FIELDS cont.**

grams.

LSUS has accomplished so much, but the question remains: "What is in store for the next forty years?"

After talking to some of the administration, the goal is clear; LSUS needs more academic programs.

"Due to the fact that LSUS has the lowest number of academic programs in Northwest Louisiana, potential students are forced to move or commute to other

colleges because certain programs are just not offered here," said Dr. Gloria Raines, vice chancellor for student affairs.

"The only way that Louisiana is going to get off the bottom is through education; we need more programs," explained Raines.

LSUS and Northwest Louisiana are constantly losing potential students to other areas. Texas schools often recruit Louisiana stu-

dents, and many students must leave the area due to the deficiency.

According to Dr. McLemore's book, Caddo and Bossier parishes have only 48 academic programs total while Ouachita and Lincoln parishes have 259 programs total. The total number of programs in East Texas is 107, more than doubling the amount of programs at LSUS.

**POLITICAL SCENE cont.**

tion I can run to do three things; be a national delegate, a national alternate, or an officer," said Wallace. "At the convention I hope to be selected to attend the National Convention to further represent Louisiana and LSUS and to affect the future of our nation by nominating someone who could be our next president."

Both Kay and Wallace said that candidates at the local caucuses could run committed to one presidential candidate or run uncommitted to a candidate but to a platform or values. Both students decided to run uncommitted to any one candidate on the Pro-Life, Pro-Family ticket which won the majority of votes throughout the

state.

"Basically we are just promising to support the candidate that best represents [Pro-Life, Pro-Family] by supporting the right to life, family values, and the importance of families in general," said Deanna.

"Even though I did not win personally, the Pro-Life, Pro-Family slate won the majority and I am happy about that," Kay said.

Kay and Wallace are involved in other areas of politics outside of campus as well. John recently became a member of the Republican State Central Committee and Deanna is currently considering which various local Republican women's group she would like to affiliate

with.

However both students said that they believe the College Republicans offer LSUS Republican students a chance to get involved in local and state politics right here on campus.

"This semester [at the College Republicans], we are looking to get more recruits and to get funding from the Louisiana Federation of College Republicans," said Kay. "Funding will help us attract more people and it should be enough to help us get a push in the fall to help out candidates. As a group, we have an agenda and we want to push it."

**PILOTS cont.**

first half. This meant that Travis Cash, guard, had to carry much of the load. Coming through in the time of need, Cash scored 27 points and snagged 10 rebounds. Even with his hefty contribution, the Pilots still struggled to make it through the night. At the end of regulation, both teams were tied and determined. The two teams squared off again in overtime, but Xavier ended up coming out on top, winning 75-72.

This past Saturday, the Pilots men's basketball team showed that it was no fan of losing, by winning 95-76 over the Crusaders of William Carey College. As always, Porter gave the fans a fantastic show. He finished the game with 34 points and nine rebounds. He collected 20 of those points and five of those rebounds in the first half.

After the first half, there was not much to sit on the edge of your seat about, as

the fans knew the Pilots would convincingly take home the win. But, the show did go on with Porter connecting with Cash for a dunk. Cash added 22 points and 6 rebounds to the Pilot victory. Close to a double-double, Morris scored 12 points and pulled down nine rebounds. Winning is nothing new to the Pilots men's basketball team. It's just another day at the Dock!

**Restroom Review**

Jennifer Cook  
Staff Writer

The "Toilet Paper" newsletter that is found in the bathrooms throughout campus is now called "Stall News."

What was the reason for this name change? "Toilet Paper" seemed to be quite a catchy name. Joseph Pearson, director of the University Center, explained the reason for the 'flushing' of the "Toilet Paper."

Pearson said it was to make the newsletter a little more "professional, since it is a University publication."

Steven Susla, sophomore, biology, said he didn't know why they changed the name.

Most people assumed there was a complaint.

No one had complained about the title of the newsletter, but the change was made to prevent any complaints.

"Actually there have been more complaints about the name change," said Pearson.

Students seemed to have liked the "Toilet Paper" name and the cleverness it brought to the, um, bathroom.

Pearson also said he is open to any suggestions or feedback that students may have.

**SAB Schedule**

**Movie Night:**  
*Phantom of the Opera*  
02/06 @ 7 p.m.  
UC Theater

**LSUS Treasure Hunt**  
02/06 All Day  
LSUS Campus

**LSUS Masquerade Ball Masks & Mask Cookies & the LSUS Jazz Band**  
02/07 @  
10:30 p.m.  
UC Lobby

**Speed Dating**  
02/07 @ 7 p.m.  
UC Ballroom

**LSUS Blood Drive**  
02/07 @  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
UC Caddo/Bossier Room

**Window Painting Contest**  
02/07 All Day  
University Center

**Homecoming Masquerade Ball**  
02/08 @ 8 p.m.  
UC Ballroom

**Overtime Party**  
02/09 After the Men's Basketball Game  
UC Lobby





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## Campus veterans

**Ken Lawson**  
Contributing Writer

When I hear the word "veteran," an image of an old man wearing a blue and gold cap that reads "Vietnam Vet" or something of that nature comes to mind. The one image I never imagine is of a young handsome college student that wears ripped jeans and a tee. Now, in the year 2008, the young fresh faces around campus are showing up more and more in my mind because quite a few student veterans are walking around LSUS. They have served in the war and fought for our country, friends and classmates.

They are transitioning from gun-slinging war vets to eager-to-learn college students. One student in particular sat down and discussed his experiences as a college student and veteran of the war. Senior David Jacobs is a 27-year-old-veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq.

"I joined the Navy at the age of 19 to travel the world," Jacobs said of his

enlistment. He said that he did not know at the time he would actually be experiencing a life-changing adventure. Jacobs was an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) specialist. "We blew up bridges and any transits that could lead them to us," Jacobs said.

Once over his initial state of shock, Jacobs was shot at and in return shot at "enemies." The transition from such an emotional, physical and mental six month strain, to an easy-going, relaxed and determined college student was a hard one.

"They taught us how to turn it on, but forgot to teach us how to turn it off," Jacobs said of his extensive training. He fought with a lot of mixed feelings and actually had to seek out professional help to come to terms with his experience.

"It's going to get worse (in Iraq)," he said. "I say by 2011 it will be another Civil War."

He is now about ready to graduate and looks forward to a bright future. He is just one of the many student veterans around campus.

**Welcome back  
to a new school  
year Pilots!**

**from  
the Almagest**



# food & drink

DANH'S  
GARDEN

Chris Sanders  
Contributing Writer

Danh's Garden serves up an excellent variety of Vietnamese and Thai cuisine at affordable prices. Most entrees are \$8 or less and are served in generous portions, so it is quite possible to fill up for cheap.

In addition to the standard soft drinks, Danh's also serves some specialty beverages, such as Thai tea and Vietnamese coffee. Thai tea is iced black tea mixed with condensed milk, while Vietnamese coffee is a strong coffee mixed with condensed milk and served on ice.

For appetizers, both the fried egg rolls and fresh spring rolls are good choices. For the more adventurous, try the fried baby octopus.

There are three basic types of Vietnamese entrée. The noodle soups are large and filling bowls of broth loaded with rice or egg noodles and meat. To tackle these, bring a big appetite and chopstick skills. Don't be afraid to ignore the manners your mama taught you, because there's no real way to eat these dishes without slurping noodles and leaning over your bowl. The second type of Vietnamese entrée is the vermicelli dishes, or noodle salads. These consist of a substantial amount of rice vermicelli noodles and fresh lettuce, bean sprouts

and cucumbers with your choice of meat. They are served with a small bowl of fish sauce, which is poured over the dish to add a salty flavor. Go easy on the sauce until you get a taste for it. The third variety of Vietnamese dish is the rice platter. These consist of your choice of meat served with either steamed or fried rice. Fish sauce accompanies these meals as well.

The Thai section of the menu is even more diverse.

The safest intro to Thai cuisine is a dish called Pad Thai, which is rice noodles in a thin, sweet sauce with eggs, bean sprouts, and crushed peanuts. For lovers of spicy food, many of the Thai selections pack some heat, especially the red and green curry dishes.

Danh's does have a few unfortunate drawbacks. The biggest issue is a lack of parking during lunch and dinner rushes. Additionally, service can be somewhat slow because there are usually only two people waiting tables, bussing, and working the register. Food comes out quickly, but if you need anything after that point, you can't be shy about flagging someone down. Aside from these issues, Danh's Garden provides an enjoyable and affordable dining experience for lunch and dinner.

**Danh's Garden**  
3312 Youree Drive  
865-5370  
11 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
7 days a week

Photo Courtesy of  
Google Images



## welcome to the Music Festival Experience

Kristen King  
Contributing Writer

It was 1969 and love was in the air. Music lovers and party animals sat in 20-mile long traffic jams waiting for the biggest musical festival of their time – a three day party known as Woodstock. It's still talked about like it was yesterday, and for those wishing they could have been there, there's still hope.

Thousands of music festivals take place across the country each year, but to make it an unforgettable experience, a plan must be had.

Christine Bradley, junior, journalism and Spanish, attends festivals once or twice a year. "I love to see all different kinds of people listening to all different kinds of music together," said Bradley.

While Bradley enjoys the diverse people and great music, David Jacobs, senior, public relations, says it's all about the girls. "The food is great, there are tons of beautiful women and it's a lot of fun meeting people," said Jacobs.

Jacobs usually goes to Baton Rouge or New Orleans for festivals, but travels across state lines on oc-

casion.

If traveling cross country does ensue, there's a lot going on in the name of music this year. Last year, comedian Sarah Silverman hosted the Sasquatch Music Festival featuring Bjork, Beastie Boys and Spoon. The festival can be seen this Memorial Day Weekend in Washington.

In California, the High Sierra festival in July features four days of rock, bluegrass, funk, soul, jazz, and electronica for the cost of only \$146. Swing on over to Indio and catch Coachella, a three day music fest including headliners Jack Johnson, Death Cab for Cutie, and Portishead. The festival begins April 25, tickets on sale now.

Head on up to Tennessee between June 12-15 for Bonnaroo, a four day music experience that provides not only music, a comedy club, cinema and classic arcade. Pearl Jam, Modest Mouse and Snow Patrol entertained Lollapalooza goes last year, their dates being set August 1-3 in Chicago.

Also in the south includes Austin, which houses South

by Southwest March 12-16. Tickets run \$600 to \$650, and if there's some extra cash to spare, Austin's "film fest" can be attended beginning on March 7.

Texas can also be revisited in May for the Wildflower Arts and Music Festival. Past acts have included Jo Dee Messina, Better than Ezra and Fastball. If that's not enough for the Lone star State, check out Austin City Limits in September.

Back in Louisiana, downtown Lafayette offers the Festival International de Louisiane this April and Voodoo Fest in New Orleans kicks off in October. Tickets for Voodoo Fest go on sale in June.

Ready to go? Don't forget the essentials. Bradley suggests blankets, raingear and spare cash is a must, and since festival food can be overpriced, bring unopened bottled water. Jacobs' festival policy: less is more.

Music goes beware though, not all venues are the same; call beforehand or check out their Web sites for festival regulations.



# A Year in Review: The Ups and Downs of 2007

January 30th  
Microsoft releases  
Windows Vista and  
Office 2007



February 17th  
Britney goes crazy,  
shaves head

April 11th  
Author Kurt  
Vonnegut dies

January 4th  
Nancy Pelosi becomes  
the first female speaker  
of the US House of  
Representatives

February 8th  
Anna Nicole  
Smith dies



March 23rd  
Knut, the famous polar  
bear cub from the  
Berlin Zoo, makes his  
public debut

April 16th  
32 people die in the  
Virginia Tech  
shooting

May 25th  
Congress passes the  
Fair Minimum Wage  
Act, the first US  
minium wage  
increase in a decade

June 11th  
Larry Craig arrested for  
lewd behavior in a  
Minneapolis Airport  
restroom

June 27th  
Tony Blair resigns, Gordon  
Brown appointed as the  
new Prime Minister of the  
UK



June 29th  
Apple introduces the  
iPhone



July 7th  
Harry Potter and the  
Deathly Hallows, the  
final chapter in the  
seven part series,  
released

August 7th  
Barry Bonds breaks  
Hank Aaron's home  
run record,  
hitting his 756th  
home run



August 1st  
The I-35 bridge over the  
Mississippi River in Min-  
neapolis collapses,  
killing 13 individuals

August 30th  
US Air Force makes a boo  
boo, allowing a B-52 to fly  
from Minot AFB, N.D. to  
Barksdale AFB,  
carrying 6 nuclear  
warheads



November 5th  
Writers Guild of America  
begins its strike

November 30th  
Legendary Evel Knievel  
dies at age 69



December 10th  
Led Zeppelin reunites in  
London

Decemeber 5th  
A bomb kills former  
Pakistani Prime Minister  
Benazir Bhutto and 20  
others at an election rally

October 20th  
The first of many  
California wildfires  
iginites the Malibu  
area, raging for over  
two months, forcing  
thousands to  
evacuate

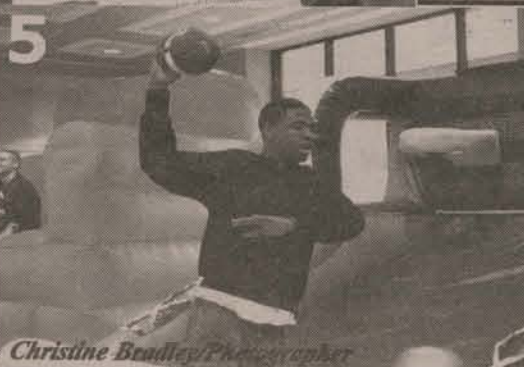
December 5th  
A young man shoots  
13 people, killing 8,  
before turning the  
gun on himself at the  
Westroads Mall in  
Omaha, Neb.

Compiled by  
Kacy Smith,  
Contributing  
Writer

Photos Courtesy of  
Google Images

## Welcome Back Bash 2008

From left to right: 1. Zeta Tau Alpha sisters Lesley Reed, Chalet Sistrunk, Holli Thomas, Samantha Butcher, Whitney Tarkowski, Jolie Pham and Tori Siau present their booth at Welcome Back Bash. 2. Montrell Gaddison and John O'Carrat battle at the spacewalk. 3. Coffeehouse series presents musical artist Nick Motil. 4. Cherie' Gray, psychology and history, relaxes in the newly remodeled University center. 5. Rashad Johnson, business, scores a goal at blow-up basketball. 6. John Kay, mass communications, represents the college republicans at the bash. 7. Lounging around: Fawn Hutto, business; Kacie Cryer, general studies; Terriyon Fairley, health; Jamien Arvie, english; Travis Cash, general studies; and Edie Leonards, health.





# Washington Semester

**LSU in Shreveport  
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AMST 298  
AMST 398  
POLI 399**

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American Studies Seminar  
American Studies Seminar  
American Studies Seminar  
Field Research in Government Law**

**To reserve a slot for the 2008 Washington Semester, a \$400 nonrefundable housing deposit is required. Check should be payable to LSUS. DUE MARCH 15.**



# Alumni in the outback

**Alleigha Cross**  
Contributing Writer

LSUS Athletics may lead students farther than ever imagined, even into the realms of the notorious outback.

Dustin "Biss" Bissonnette, 2007 LSUS business finance graduate, is now living this dream. Originally from British Columbia, Canada, he has now added Australia as a passport stamp.

Bissonnette played baseball at LSUS for three years. He was awarded the All Conference second Baseman award and also the All

Conference Player of the Year award. While playing, he also held the highest batting average at .444. Dustin spent his senior year assisting in coaching for the LSUS Pilots.

"Without LSUS there is no way I would be here now. It really helped open this door in my life," said Bissonnette.

Passion and determination led Bissonnette to play in Australia. Though the continent is vibrant in sporting activities, baseball is still a struggling sport. In an effort to build the baseball program, people are chosen internationally to play pro-

fessional ball. Upon review of Bissonnette's previous baseball experience, he was chosen to play second base for the Canberra Eagles located in Australia.

While in Sydney, Bissonnette has been coaching a youth baseball team.

"Being in Australia has taught me a lot about myself and my passion for baseball," Bissonnette said. "I really enjoy what I am doing."

Though his future plans are uncertain, he is certain that he made the right decision to play so far away from home.

## TONIGHT!

Lady Pilots vs. Tougaloo College  
@ 5:30p.m.  
Pilots vs. Tougaloo College @  
7:30p.m.

# Young squad seeks to fill veteran cleats

**Bradley Ball**  
Contributing Writer

With the season starting two weeks earlier than last year, the LSUS Pilots baseball team is working hard to prepare for the 2008 season.

The Pilots finished last season with a 40-15 record and became the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference tournament champions. While most students are trying to stay out of the cold, winter weather, the Pilots baseball team has been fighting the weather and practicing in it. The team started practice on Jan. 7.

"The cold weather had an affect on the players, but they did a good job of fight-

ing through it," said Coach Rocke Musgraves.

This statement helps to emphasize what Musgraves meant with the one word reply "character" when asked to describe the team's best asset. One of Musgraves' goals for this season is to get better as the season goes on because of the addition of new players. Musgraves has signed 19 new players since the end of last season.

Musgrave predicts that their best game will be played towards the end of the season, and if they continue to play well, the championships will take care of themselves. Since it's the earliest the Pilots have ever started, the biggest chal-

lenge they face is to start injury free in the first two weeks of the season.

For the Pilots, preparation in the off season seemed vital. This included seven full weeks of practice in the fall and an Olympic style weightlifting program arranged by LSUS' Kyle Pierce, associate professor of Kinesiology and health sciences.

Musgraves said, "The Olympic style weightlifting program can help make an average player into a good player and a good player into a great player."

Center fielder Quinton Shamsabody said, "I prepared for this season with the fall practices, working

hard in the weight room, and working on the small aspects of the game to improve."

With the loss of some of last year's players Musgraves said, "The pitching staff has been the hardest positions to fill."

When asked what the biggest challenge will be with the departure of last year's players, Shamsabody said, "Team chemistry. Because there are so many new faces coming together and learning to play well together will be key to our success."

Of the players to return, Musgraves thinks that OF Quinton Shamsabody, 1B Brian Stebbings, OF Ricky Sanders, IF Jacob Watkins,

RHP Victor Hernandez, RHP/IF J.V. Lafitte, RHP Blake Pinkston, and RHP Chris Steadman will have a significant impact this season, because they have shown the ability to compete at a high level and have a proven track record.

Of the new players Musgraves has signed he thinks that RHP Cody Lott, IF Jeffrey Garidel, IF/RHP Craig Barnes, OF Brandon Bravata, C Andrew Brouillette, and RHP Zach Ray, who have played at Division 1 or Division 2 schools, will bring valuable experience to the Pilots.

## Schedule of Events

### Men's Baseball: Home Games

WHEN:	OPPONENT:	TIME:
February 8th	Belhaven	6:30 p.m.
February 9th	Belhaven	1 p.m.
February 12th	Louisiana College	6:30 p.m.
February 15th	Tougaloo	6:30 p.m.

### Women's Basketball: Home Games

WHEN:	OPPONENT:	TIME:
January 31st	Tougaloo	5:30 p.m.
February 2nd	Mobile	2 p.m.
February 9th	Loyola	2 p.m.
February 21st	Southern	5:30 p.m.

### Men's Basketball: Home Games

WHEN:	OPPONENT:	TIME:
January 31st	Tougaloo	7:30 p.m.
February 2nd	Mobile	4 p.m.
February 9th	Loyola	4 p.m.
February 21st	Southern	7:30 p.m.



## Weekly Music Line-Up

WHEN:	WHERE:	BANDS:
January 31st @ 9 p.m.	Jack Rabbit Lounge	The Blue Hit
February 1st @ 8 p.m.	Harlequin Alley	The Forgotten, Displaced
February 1st @ 8 p.m.	Sharpies	Reflection's Burn
February 2nd @ 7:30 p.m.	Centurytel Center	Reba & Kelly Clarkson
February 2nd @ 7 p.m.	Harlequin Alley	Porcelain Arms, Harbor the Thief, Pensive, Where Moon Is
February 2nd @ 9 p.m.	Mia's Pub	An Hours Day, Saturate
February 2nd @ 10 p.m.	The Warehouse	Outlaw Nation, 6 Pack Deep, Front Street Project
February 2nd @ 11 p.m.	Chicago: Vargas	Withheld
February 7th @ 7 p.m.	The Strand Theatre	Anita Renfroe
February 8th @ 8 p.m.	Harlequin Alley	Everything Breathing, Twice Taken, At Our Finest
February 8th @ 9 p.m.	Mia's Pub	After the Crash
February 8th @ 10 p.m.	The Warehouse	She Craves, Dead Twins
February 9th @ 9 p.m.	Jackrabbit Lounge	RaRa, The Peekers
February 9th @ 9 p.m.	Mia's Pub	Dustin Morris
February 13th @ 9 p.m.	Jackrabbit Lounge	Jaguar Shark, Riot Before

## ATTENTION STUDENTS!

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Willie Nelson: *Moment of Forever*

Derick Jones  
Managing Editor

His name is recognized from small-town, Texas counties to industrialized, Japanese cities. Through the seventies he established himself through a type of music that could only be named as "outlaw country." This iconic country (but never by Nashville's standards) music legend is Willie Nelson, and

over 50 years later he's still amazing the world one tune at a time.

His newest album, *Moment of Forever*, co-produced by Kenny Chesney, is Willie at his mellow finest.

The album includes Nelson's title track, "Moment of Forever," a cover originally performed by long-time friend and band mate, Kris Kristofferson. Another is a tribute to the Hurricane Katrina evacuees perfectly entitled "Louisiana."

"Gravedigger," a cover by the infamous Dave Matthews Band, sounds good in theory but doesn't hold up to the standard Dave has set.

The epitome of jazz-coun-

try is sung through "Takin' on the Water," which makes a person want to sink back in their chair and just sing along. Nelson closes with "Gotta Serve Somebody," another cover song, this time brought by legendary singer/songwriter Bob Dylan.

Like Nelson has always done in the past, *Moment of Forever* shares a story of living in the moment and forever holding on to it. As Nelson explains in "Always Now," the story of a man coming to terms with his own life, he sings that "there never was a used to be...it's always now."

## Religion and politics: do they mix?

Natalie Allgood  
Contributing Writer

Article VI of the US Constitution states that, "...no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

What exactly does this mean? The United States founding fathers designed a constitution that would keep any presidential candidate from being disqualified due to his or her religious preference.

This fact is the inspiration behind *Article VI*, a documentary film made to capture the intensity and improve the quality of the presidential debate.

One of the main ideas behind *Article VI* was to provoke thought by adding a historic perspective and context to the way most people view the topic of religion and politics.

The movie is being shown in selected cities across the country such as Washington D.C., New York City, and

Salt Lake City among others.

LSUS was the sight for the Shreveport viewing this month, which occurred Monday.

Reed Dickens, former White House assistant press secretary and the 2006 Distinguished Alumni of LSUS is a co-producer of *Article VI*.

Dickens' communication firm, Outside Eyes, played a role in the roll out of the film.

When asked about the decision process for cities of release, Dickens said, "Going about picking the locations for the film to be viewed was actually pretty simple. The directors studied the political primary map to see how organized each city's political infrastructure was and how intense their political climate was as well."

Brooke Humble, junior, business administration, said "I do not believe that it should be required of any president to have a religious

background, but as we have seen in the past, a president with strong religious beliefs does help the welfare and direction of our nation."

The group of producers and directors that came together to create this film are an ecumenical and bipartisan group. As a team, the group worked not to advocate for or associate with any candidate, party or religion while producing the film.

"People are already saying that they think differently about politics and faith. We are not naive in thinking that it will impact the races, but we are already seeing the film impact the voters thought process," said Dickens.

The feedback from the movie can not only be measured in the viewers' direct response, but also through the success in sales. The movie has already captured the attention of the national media and the blogosphere.



# Cloverfield:

## Shrouded in Mystery for No Apparent Reason

James Howard  
Contributing Writer

When Drew Goddard ("Lost") pitched his screenplay for *Cloverfield* to J. J. Abrams ("Lost," "Alias"), he must have thought that his vision was so mind-blowingly original that it should remain mysteriously ambiguous through opening night. Thus, the smirking Abrams cautiously unveiled the previews for *Cloverfield* some months ago with over-edited snippets of "real" looking footage from a New York cocktail party apparently being crashed by a "monster" of some sort. That's right folks, a monster.

Does the monster have a name, you ask? Godzilla? King Kong? No, my misguided comrade, unfortunately it's just a "monster." You know, one of those cliché, generic beasts that haven't quite made it to the big leagues yet. "Well, I get to see the monster, right?" Sure! Well, a little, in between the prolonged rambling scenes in which the "characters" banter needlessly about the bland nature of an apocalyptic Manhattan lifestyle. "Obviously we get to see some cool explosions?" Ah dedicated moviegoer, if the wanton destruction of New York on a blue screen oils your ma-

chinery, than this is the movie for you.

Of course, you could have stood outside the theater and starred at the poster for 88 minutes and received the same thrills for free, but who am I to judge? Honestly, I don't think Abrams was attempting to cloud his film in ambiguity by presenting a threadbare trailer; I just don't think there was enough material for anything else. Hell, there was barely enough material for a poster.

I can't remark on the ability of actors Michael Stahl-David ("The Black Donnellys"), Jessica Lucas ("She's the Man"), T. J. Miller ("Carpoolers"), Lizzy Caplan ("Mean Girls"), or Odette Yustman ("Walk Hard," "Transformers," "Kindergarten Cop"), because the movie pretty much consisted of them running around with a camera and screaming every time the monster showed up. "Remember that monster we saw 10 minutes ago? He's still here!"

The shaky camera work is probably supposed to evoke an eerie amateurish feeling (I have a feeling Abrams was watching *The Blair Witch Project* when he came up with this one), but in reality,

it makes the viewer sick to the stomach and squinting at the screen trying to remember why they paid to see a four year-old's YouTube submission. The non-monster portions of the movie reminded me of watching Great Aunt Gladys's Ohio vacation footage, only if Aunt Gladys was 23, hot, and sporadically chased by an 180 ft. monster. The point is that it's hard to review the abilities of an actor who spends 90 percent of his or her time fleeing from the camera. Considering what these people had to work with, they did a pretty good job.

The sound effects were truly awe inspiring, and certain visuals certainly struck a cord of fear and sadness with a desperate replication of past events. If you can ignore the lack of plot, poor choice of medium, terrible dialog, presence of a seemingly indestructible camcorder, and of course, Abrams's apparent arrogance, then the movie was pretty good. *Cloverfield*: another basic monster movie with plenty of cheap thrills that does a mediocre job of satiating any audience hoping for something sensational.

# Heath Ledger

## 1979-2008



*10 Things I Hate  
About You*  
1999



*The Patriot*  
2000



*A Knight's Tale*  
2001



*The Four Feathers*  
2002



*Lords of Dogtown*  
2005



*Brokeback Mountain*  
2005



*Casanova*  
2005



*The Dark Knight*  
2008

Photos Courtesy of  
International Movie  
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## Eldritch Scream

By Sam Fullen



For several millennia, the world of Sedonia has been ravaged by war. The winged birdmen, the Garuda, wage battle after bloody battle against the serpentine Naga, in a war that has no beginning and no end. In recent years, the Naga have begun to advance their technology, stealing from the Garuda and working deep in their watery caverns and cities. They developed an entirely different kind of technology, like nothing the Garuda possessed,

and began to experiment with genetic modification. These experiments birthed a hybrid species, the Dakatsu—genetically engineered Naga, granted the ability to fly and thus negate the Garuda's biggest advantage. But, the Dakatsu were monsters. Born with an insatiable lust for blood and battle, as well as psychological instabilities, they were forced to live and populate in a desolate, dangerous terrain. However, in one catastrophic chain of events starting with the

genocide of the Dakatsu and ultimately leading to the enslavement of the Naga, the Garuda brought the war to what seemed to be an abrupt halt with a definite victory in the hands of the Garuda. The Garuda hadn't counted on there being survivors among the Dakatsu. Hiding for five years, the arrival of the fourth and final Dakatsu to the Naga capital of Bhoga-vati marks the end of a shaken domination and the beginning of a full-scale rebellion.

## sudoku

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8	6						9	5
	4		9			6		1
3		7				1		
		9		2	4			
			7					6

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## Bert Stroud, the Anthropologist

By: Mike Schwalke & Diego Tripodi



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